



**Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District**  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSMAN AWARDED AVAQMD'S HIGHEST HONOR** **Gas Station Contractor Recognized for Commitment to Quality Installations**

Lancaster – Terry Cisek - the owner/operator of a company considered the “gold standard” among contractors who install gasoline vapor recovery equipment - was recognized today by the Governing Board of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District as they presented him with the 2008/2009 Wm. “Pete” Knight Memorial AIRE (Achievement in Reducing Emissions) Award.

The AIRE award – which is presented annually to local entities or individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to protecting air quality and the environment within the AVAQMD’s boundaries, which include the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale – was presented during the local regulatory air agency’s monthly Governing Board meeting in Lancaster. The award was presented by AVAQMD Governing Board Chair and City of Palmdale Mayor James Ledford, Jr., AVAQMD Executive Director Eldon Heaston and Operations Manager Bret Banks.

Cisek – whose Lancaster-based Petroleum Equipment Construction Services has been in business for more than 20 years – was recognized for his high quality installation of vapory recovery systems at fueling stations located throughout the Antelope Valley. Under the requirements of federal, state and local air regulations, vapor recovery systems - which include hoses, nozzles, processors and other equipment that creates a closed

system which returns gasoline vapors back to underground storage tanks and delivery trucks instead of into the atmosphere – are required to be installed at all fueling stations. Lack of, or improper installation of such equipment results in the release of benzene, along with volatile organic compounds into the atmosphere, which combine with nitrogen oxides to form ground-level ozone or smog.

According to Banks, Cisek is a trusted resource for air district personnel. “Many new and not so-new air district inspectors have come to rely on Terry’s wealth of knowledge and on-site indoctrination, which he is able to impart regarding almost every type of system available on the market today,” states Banks, adding that the District often looks to Cisek to confirm proper procedure and installation of questionable upgrades.

In the wake of mind-boggling state-mandated Phase I and Phase II Enhanced Vapor Recovery requirements which have come on line over the past four years, Cisek has further fortified his reputation as a valued resource to District inspectors, states Banks, adding that Cisek’s knowledge and work ethic are rivaled only by the quality of his installations. “Whenever PECS completes a new system upgrade or conducts a test, the AVAQMD know that all work has been performed to the letter of the applicable Executive Order and code, and that air quality and public health are being protected to the highest standard,” commented Banks.

The Wm. “Pete” Knight Memorial AIRE Awards are presented each year in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week, which is observed the third week of September. In 2005, the AVAQMD’s Governing Board renamed the District’s highest honor after the late Senator Wm. “Pete” Knight, in recognition of his pivotal role in the creation of the AVAQMD as a separate, locally governed air agency.

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